**Draft 03/12/09**
**BDCP CONSERVATION MEASURES DRERIP EVALUATION SYNTHESIS PROCESS**

Problem: BDCP has used the DRERIP Scientific Evaluation process to examine 32 draft conservation measures for the strength of their scientific bases, their possible worth relative to anticipated species and ecosystem benefits, and their risks of implementation. The evaluations were undertaken by 5 teams of scientific experts from various academic areas of expertise. These evaluations are complete or nearing completion. These teams analyzed the worth and risks of actions by species. They did not develop an overall score of worth per action, nor did they assign an adaptive management category based on the DRERIP decision tree process. These two steps were considered to be beyond the charge of these teams and more appropriately handled by BDCP processes.

Moreover, DRERIP was developed to evaluate, through a documented process, individual actions using the best available science and professional judgment. It was not developed to look at possible integrative and complementary benefits, or risks of multiple actions. Therefore, California Department of Fish and Game has suggested that BDCP would benefit from having a small group of technical experts who are familiar with the results of and questions raised in the recent DRERIP evaluations to analyze the proposed conservation measures in light of BDCP's comprehensive implementation approach over time.

Technical Synthesis Team: This group of technical experts, which would be called the Technical Synthesis Team, would use the completed DRERIP scientific evaluations and other tools to provide a technical assessment of implementation scenarios that have been previously considered in the Conveyance Work Group and/or Integration Team discussions. The group would not evaluate scenarios not previously considered in BDCP.
The Technical Synthesis Team would:

1. Provide recommendations from the results of the analysis. on the efficacy and implementation approaches of the BDCP core actions in the context of adaptive management
2. Consider how the DRERIP "worth values" assigned to individual actions in the recent evaluations might be different if they were refined and/or combined with other complementary actions.
3. Recommend next steps for those actions based on the DRERIP decision tree.
4. Examine identified ecological risks and recommend modifications or measures to address such risks in the context of other BDCP conservation measures.
5. Recommended next steps for each of the actions would be formulated to be consistent with the BDCP adaptive management program.

This group would be composed of agency technical staff familiar with the DRERIP process, SAIC staff, and select members from the 5 DRERIP evaluation teams.

Timeframe: The group would begin its synthesis and evaluation as soon as feasible. Preliminary work products from the ongoing DRERIP team evaluations are to be presented in summary to the BDCP Steering Committee on March 13, with final work sheets submitted by March 27. The synthesis work could begin in earnest the week of March 23. The goal of the Technical Synthesis Team would be to complete its analysis by April 17.

Report: The group will review all DRERIP evaluations completed for BDCP core elements and other stressor conservation measures, as well as any additional modeling that SAIC may provide during the course of the synthesis. A report will be prepared that recommends next steps for each of the individual conservation measures, based on an assessment of their worth and risks in combination with other BDCP conservation measures. Next steps for each measure will be identified using the adaptive management decision tree from DRERIP.